



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/461,040	12/15/1999	Michelle Q. Wang Baldonado	104323	3267

7590

04/26/2004

Oliff & Berridge PLC
PO Box 19928
Alexandria, VA 22320

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MAIKHANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2176

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2004

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/461,040

Applicant(s)

BALDONADO ET AL.

Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

Art Unit

2176

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment B filed 01/30/2004 to the original application filed 12/15/1999.
2. Claims 1-37 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, and 26 have been amended. Claims 1, 14 and 26 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 14-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- The limitations “generating at least one annotation using an annotation device and an input device independently” (claims 14 and 26, lines 5-6) 30 are unclear. The examiner does not understand the meaning of “generating at least one annotation using an annotation device and an input device independently.”

- The limitations “An information storage medium for associating annotations with at least one object comprising: information that search...information that obtains ... information that generates ... information a link associating ... information transferring ... one object

Art Unit: 2176

identifier” (claim 26, lines 1-12) are unclear. The Examiner does not understand how **information** does these things. The Examiner’s suggestion of changing these limitations to “A computer-readable media for associating annotations with at least one object comprising software for performing the following steps: instructions used for searching ... instructions used to obtain ... instructions used to generate ... instructions used for establishing ... instructions used for transferring ...one object identifier.”

Dependent claims 15-25 and 27-37 are rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of their base claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Eberman et al.** (U.S. 6,173,287 – filed 03/1998) in view of **Lopresti et al.** (U.S. 5,832, 474 – filed 02/1996).

As to independent claim 14, Eberman discloses a method for associating annotations with at least one object (*an annotation of interest corresponding to the item of interest; col.2, lines 16-24*) comprising:

- searching for the at least one object to annotate (*Once the annotation of interest has been found; col.2, lines 46-59*);

- obtaining an object identifier for at least one object (*each object in the meta database ...along with ,or with reference to, each associated object identification number; col.20, lines 61-65 /obtains the object identification number ... object type; col.21, lines 15-29*);

- generating at least one annotation using an annotation device and an input device independently, while displaying at least one object with a viewing device that is distinct from the annotation device;

- establishing a link associating the at least one annotation with the object (*col.16, lines 1-10 and Fig.7*);

- transferring the at least one annotation to the at least one object by associating the at least one annotation with the at least one object based on the link and the at least one object identifier (*the location identifier can be identified in conjunction with the locating of the annotation of interest ... the search identifier is preferably an object identifier ...the stored address identifiers are URLs identifying the locations of digital representations within one or more databases; col.3, lines 13-54 and Fig.9*).

Eberman discloses generating at least one annotation using an annotation device (*The annotation client 18 ... generate annotations for the object; col.7, lines 19-34 and Fig.1A*), but does not explicitly disclose “generating at least one annotation using an annotation device and an input device independently, while displaying at least one object with a viewing device that is distinct from the annotation device.”

Lopresti discloses generating at least one annotation using an annotation device and an input device independently, while displaying at least one object with a viewing device that is distinct from the annotation device (*The workstation 16 is provided with a drawing tool, such as*

a pen and digitizing table 24. The pen and digitizing tablet is coupled through the user interface of the browser application, allowing the user to draw on the tablet with the pen and see the results appear as annotations on the document browser display screen; col.4, lines 24-29 and Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Lopresti and Eberman because Lopresti's teaching would have provided the capability for allowing the users to create and view the annotations in different media.

As to dependent claim 15, Eberman discloses the annotation linking circuit establishes the link to the at least one portion based on at least one of a graphical technique and a textual technique (*col.2, lines 24-38*).

As to dependent claim 16, Eberman discloses the graphical technique associates the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the at least one object based on selection of at least one portion of a graphical icon that is a visual surrogate of the at least one object (*col.2, lines 24-38*).

As to dependent claim 17, Eberman discloses the textual technique comprises associating the at least one annotation and at least one of a word, phrase or a portion of text (*col.2, lines 24-38*).

As to dependent claim 18, Eberman discloses the textual technique is based on a phrase completion technique (*col.22, line 23-col.23, line 67*).

As to dependent claim 19, Eberman discloses associating the object identifier and the at least one object (*col.2, lines 16-45*).

As to dependent claim 20, Eberman discloses retrieving supplemental information associated with the at least one object (*Abstract*).

As to dependent claim 21, Eberman discloses developing a digital surrogate of the at least one object (*col.2, lines 16-45*).

As to dependent claim 22, Eberman discloses retrieving at least one previous annotation associated with the at least one object (*col.3, lines 9-34*).

As to dependent claim 23, Eberman discloses annotating at least one of the at least one previous annotation (*col.3, lines 9-34*).

As to dependent claim 24, Eberman discloses searching for the at least one object comprises: entering at least one of a description of the object and the object identifier; and searching at least one of a networked search engine, a personal computer and a distributed network (*col.2, line 24- col.3, line 34 & col.4, lines 44-65*).

As to dependent claim 25, Eberman discloses the at least one object is at least one of a media type object, a device type object, a location type object and a digital document (*Figs. 8-9*).

Independent claim 26 is directed to an information storage media for implementing the method of claim 14, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Dependent claims 27-30 and 31-37 include the same limitations as in claims **15-18** and **20-25**, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

As to independent claim 1, the rejection of claim 14 above is incorporated herein in full. However, claim 1 further recites:

- a database that stores an object identifier, the at least one annotation and the link; and

- a synchronize circuit that associates the at least one annotation with the at least one portion of the object based on the link and the object identifier.

Eberman discloses:

- a database that stores an object identifier, the at least one annotation and the link (*The search identifier and the location identifier are stored with the annotation of interest in a database; col.3, lines 9-54*); and

- a synchronize circuit that associates the at least one annotation with the at least one portion of the object based on the link and the object identifier (*Fig.9 and associated text*).

Dependent claims 2-5 include the same limitations as in claims 15-18, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

As to dependent claim 6, Eberman discloses the search circuit is located in at least one of the annotation device, a personal computer and a networked search engine (*col. 4, lines 44-65*).

As to dependent claim 7, Eberman discloses the search circuit receives at least one of the object identifier and one or more key words corresponding to the object to be annotated (*col.2, line 25- col.3, line 34*).

As to dependent claim 8, Eberman discloses an annotation database that stores the at least one annotation and the object identifier for the at least one object (*col.2, lines 16-45*).

As to dependent claim 9, Eberman discloses the annotation database is located on a distributed network (*Figs. 1A&1B*).

As to dependent claim 10, Eberman discloses the annotation database stores at least one annotation previously associated with the at least one object (*col.7, lines 19-67*).

Dependent claim 11 includes the same limitations as in claim 25, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

As to dependent claim 12, Eberman does not explicitly disclose “the annotation device is a portable device.”

Lopresti discloses the annotation device is a portable device (e.g., digitizing tablet; col.4, lines 24-36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Lopresti and Eberman because Lopresti’s teaching would have provided the capability for allowing the users to create and view the annotations in different media.

As to dependent claim 13, Eberman discloses the object identifier is collocated with the at least one object (*col.2, line 39- col.3, line 34*).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicants’ arguments with respect to claims 1-37 have been considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that *none of the applied prior art teaches that annotations are transferred to the object by associating the annotation with the object based on a link and an object identifier*. (Remarks, page 8)

In response, Eberman’s teaching “the location identifier can be identified in conjunction with the locating of the annotation of interest ... the search identifier is preferably an object identifier ...the stored address identifiers are URLs identifying the locations of digital representations within one or more databases; col.3, lines 13-54 and Fig.9” meets “annotations

are transferred to the object by associating the annotation with the object based on a link (*URLs*) and an object identifier (*an object identifier*)” limitation as claimed by Applicant.

Accordingly, the introduction of Lopresti, as combined with Eberman meets the limitations as amended by Applicant.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tarpenning et al. U.S Patent No. 6,181,344 issue dated: Jan. 30, 2001

Eintracht et al. U.S Patent No. 6,687,878 issue dated: Feb. 03, 2004

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2176

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-0092.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maikhanh Nguyen
April 16, 2004


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER